

VISIT...

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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS THE X-MEN'S HAVOK

THE FINAL CHAPTER!



A NEW SERIES
EXCALIBUR
THE BEGINNING OF
THE END?!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

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SHINE" 17
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WEEKEND" 25
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"A HEART ATTACKED" — PART 8 OF 8

Confronting the Queen of the Cult of the Living Pharaoh, Plasma, Havok learns that she is Leila O'Toole, the woman he has pursued half way around the world. Now, in a final showdown, Plasma's ultimate plan is revealed...

"CHANCES" — PART 19 OF 25

The Black Panther and Zanti Chikane bottle Elmer "Sex 'N' Violence" Gore's mercenaries and Patrick Slade's curio shop. Slade's throat has been slit and his memories of how he learned about the Panther's mother silenced. Minister of Security Doeke Riebeck and Sergeant Van der Merwe are closing in fast on the scene of carnage.

"RISE AND SHINE" — PART 6 OF 10

Holed up in a Vegas motel, Coldblood learns of his past from his computer. Before dying, he was Lt.-Col. Eric Savin, head of security for an ultra-secret military project. In attempting to help Gina Dyson expose the truth of that project—that it was being used by Mako as a cover to create viable cyborgs destined to serve mysterious masters—Savin was killed...

"HAVING A WILD WEEKEND" — PART 1 OF 8

All that was planned was a peaceful weekend at home. Isn't it funny how things never work out the way you plan? Along comes the Loonies and Excalibur will never be the same.

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**PHARAOH'S
LEGACY** PART
VIII

STARRING: HAVOK

A HEART ATTACKED!

YOU?

YOU'RE
PLASMA?!



DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED, HAWK. SURELY YOU MUST HAVE SUSPECTED.

HOW, LEILA? WHY?

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU--

--JUST COME WITH ME.

I CAN'T LEAVE WOLVERINE LYING THERE.

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND. MY MEN WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.

I GIVE YOU MY WORD AS QUEEN THAT HE WILL COME TO NO FURTHER HARM.

YOUR WORD?

TRY NOT TO SOUND SO BITTER, ALEX.

I'VE NEVER LIED TO YOU--

--THOUGH THERE WERE THINGS THAT I NEGLECTED TO TELL YOU WHEN WE FIRST MET!

I REALLY WAS INDOCTRINATED INTO THE CULT OF THE LIVING PHAROAH QUITE INNOCENTLY.

"AND AS I TOLD YOU, I WAS SHOCKED BY ONE OF THE RITUAL SACRIFICES I WATCHED.

"I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH WHEN I SAID I HAD RUN AWAY.

"I DIDN'T TELL YOU I WAS CAPTURED BY A TRACKER IMMEDIATELY.

"THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE CULT GAVE ME INFORMATION THAT INTRIGUED ME ENOUGH FOR ME TO TRY WORKING FOR THEM.

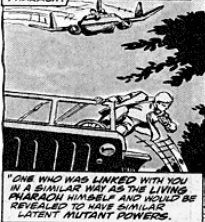
I WAS SENT TO AUSTRALIA TO HELP CAPTURE YOU.

"IT WAS MY JOB TO ACT AS BAIT WHILE THE MERCENARIES CARRIED OUT THE REAL PLAN."

"THEIR JOB WAS TO ENGAGE YOU IN A SUBSTANCE WHICH WOULD ALLOW YOU TO LIVE--"



"THE CULT HAD HOPED THAT BY DOING THIS A NEW LEADER WOULD ARISE FROM ONE OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THE LIVING PHARAOH."



"ONE WHO WAS LINKED WITH YOU IN A SIMILAR WAY AS THE LIVING PHARAOH HIMSELF AND WOULD BE REVEALED TO HAVE SIMILAR LATENT MUTANT POWERS."

"THE FIRST TIME YOU USED YOUR POWERS NEAR ME I KNEW THAT-- I PHYSICALLY FELT-- IT WAS WRONG TO SHIELD YOU AWAY FROM THE COSMIC RAYS."



"I COULDN'T LET IT HAPPEN."



"I DIDN'T."



FOR I AM THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE THRONE OF THE LIVING PHARAOH.

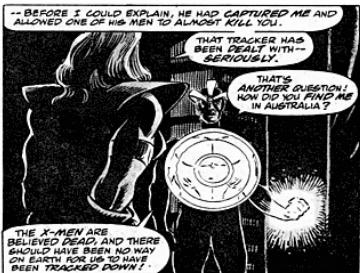
HE WAS MY UNCLE. MY MOTHER'S BROTHER. NOW I WILL RECEIVE HIS FULL LEGACY.



BUT WHY DID THEY KIDNAP YOU IF YOU WERE WITH THEM ALL ALONG?

THE SUDDEN REALIZATION OF THE POWER I HAD INHERITED CONFUSED ME TEMPORARILY.

THE TRACKER ACCOMPANYING ME TO AUSTRALIA THOUGHT THAT I HAD BETRAYED THE CULT--



-- BEFORE I COULD EXPLAIN, HE HAD CAPTURED ME AND ALLOWED ONE OF HIS MEN TO ALMOST KILL YOU.

THAT TRACKER HAD BEEN DEALT WITH-- SERIOUSLY.

THAT'S ANOTHER QUESTION! HOW DID YOU FIND ME IN AUSTRALIA?

THE X-MEN ARE BELIEVED DEAD, AND THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY ON EARTH FOR US TO HAVE BEEN TRACKED DOWN!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE PSYCHIC BOND YOU SHARED WITH THE LIVING PHAROAH WOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH HIS DESCENDANTS?

DIDN'T YOU FEEL A CLOSENESS TO ME? ALMOST AN ATTRACTION?

BUT ENOUGH OF THESE EXPLANATIONS -- IT IS TIME.

TIME? TIME FOR WHAT?

TIME FOR ME TO RECEIVE YOUR GIFT AT ITS FULLEST.

YOU ARE MY DESTINY, ALEX.

YOU ARE MY SOURCE OF STRENGTH -- OF POWER.

WHAT I DISCOVERED WHEN YOU FIRST USED YOUR POWERS NEAR ME IN THE DESERT WAS THAT I ABSORBED ALL THE COSMIC RAYS THAT YOU RELEASE.

NOW GIVE ME WHAT I DESIRE, ALEX. RELEASE YOUR ENERGIES AT ME SO THAT I MAY CONTINUE THE RULE OF THE PHAROAH.

NO.

I WON'T HELP YOU OR YOUR MISGUIDED CULT.

YOU WILL DO AS I SAY--

--OR YOU WILL DIE!

KPOW

DO NOT DENY ME, ALEX! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU--

--I NEED YOU. I MAY EVEN LOVE YOU BUT DO NOT DENY ME!



YOU NEED ME TO USE MY POWER AGAINST YOU SO THAT YOU'LL GROW STRONGER--

--I WON'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BE USED... AGAIN!



YOU WON'T ALLOW...?

YOU CANNOT DENY ME! I AM THE CHOSEN ONE! I ALONE, OF ALL MY COUSINS, SURVIVED AGAINST YOU IN THE ARENA OF DEATH!

I ALONE GREW MORE POWERFUL WITH EACH OF YOUR ENERGY BLASTS!



I COULD RIP YOU IN HALF LIKE THE WORM THAT YOU ARE!



THEN DO IT.

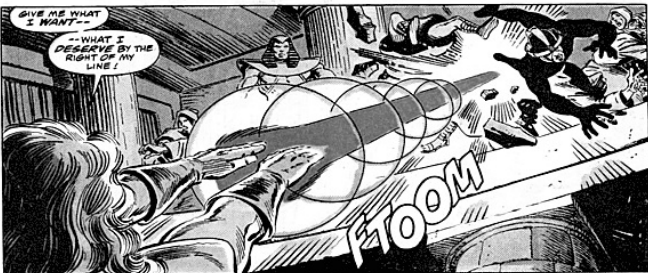


I CANNOT KILL YOU. I NEED YOU!

ARRGH!



WE ARE AS ONE! WITHOUT YOU I AM ONLY HALF OF WHAT I COULD BE!







PANTHER QUEST

PART XIX STARRING:
THE BLACK PANTHER

"I've noticed in your country (America) that if it's not on the tube then it hasn't happened."

—DENNIS GOLDBERG,
anti-apartheid activist,
the Public Television News Program,
South Africa Now.

THE GREAT CAT SENSES BLOOD IN THE AIR,
BUT HE IS DISTRACTED BY OUTSIDE NOISES
OF PROTESTING SCAVES AND THE TREADS
GOUING DIRT, RIPPING ALARMINGLY IN
HIS EARS

THE HARD
BONE-UNDER-
FLESH JOLT
OF HIS KICK
HITTING THIS
NAMELESS
ENEMY'S
FACE IS
ANOTHER
MOMENTARY
DISTRACTION.

YET THE
UNDENIABLE
SCENT OF
SPILLED
BLOOD OVER-
RIDES THE
GREAT
CAT'S
OTHER
ACUTE
SENSES.

BORE'S VOICE
SPEAKING IN GHOU-
LISH CADRON
MIMICRY LINGERS,
WHILE BLOOD SREAMS
IN HIS NOSTRILS!

STAY BEHIND ME, SGT. VAN DER MERWE. LOOKS TO ME LIKE WE FINALLY ARRIVED AT A PLACE BEFORE THAT MANIAC KAFFIRS LEFT US MORE BODIES!

I CAN'T WAIT, MINISTER RIEBECK. YOU DON'T KNOW THIS MAN. YOU HESITATE AT ALL... HE'LL BE GONE!

YOU'LL WAIT!
WE'LL HAVE BACK-UP TROOPS HERE IN SECONDS, AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S WAITING FOR US INSIDE THIS SHOP! NOBODY'S PLAYING HERO TILL THEY GET HERE

CHANCES

REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE PORRY PIG. GORE REPRIMANDS HIMSELF. ELMER FUDD'S MUCH FUNNIER.

COULDN'T THINK OF A LINE ELMER'D SAY WHEN SNUFFING A MAN'S LIFE.

WHAT'S THAT? VOICES. MUST BE SECURITY FORCES. THEY'LL SWARM IN - HERE LIKE CHIGGERS IN-SIDE JOCKEY SHORTS.

VAN DER MERWE, YOU ARE NOT TO ENTER, YOU HEAR ME?

HE AND STRIKE CAN BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEY INVADE.

NOT SURE WHERE MOSHIGO IS BUT NO TIME TO SEARCH FOR HIM. MOSHIGOS GOT ALL THE LUCK OF WILE E. COYOTE TONIGHT.

DON'T MATTER WHAT HE DOES, HE GETS THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.

I'M TELLING YOU,
MINISTER, WE'VE GOT
TO MOVE QUICKLY.

SARA SLADE RUSHES OUT
OF HER NEIGHBORS HOUSE.
SHE HADN'T BEEN SLEEP-
ING ANYHOW WHEN THE
FIRST GUNSHOTS ERUPTED.

SHE HAD BEEN LISTENING
TO GUNNY JOFTLY SHOOTING.
THE GUNSHOTS HAD
STARTLED HER. SHE KNEW
PATRICK WAS GOING TO
MEET WITH THE MAN
DRESSED LIKE THE DEVIL
OR SOMETHING. MEN SURE
WERE A CRAZY LOT.

SHE DIDN'T THINK
THE PANTHER WOULD
USE A GUN, IF HE
WAS GOING TO KILL.
HE DIDN'T SEEM
LIKE A MAN WHO
HAD TO RELY ON
A GUN OR THOUGHT
IT WAS A SOLUTION.

T'CHALLA IS NOT
SURPRISED BY
SLADE'S CORSE!

THE GREAT CAT HAD
SHELLED THE BLOOD
OF THE KING. SLADE
WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT GAMING
ANYMORE.

A SURGE
OF FURY
TOWARD
SLADE
CLAIMS
HIM! HOW
DARE HE
DIE BEFORE
TELLING
HIM WHERE
HIS MOTHER
IS!

HE REALIZES IT IS AN ANGRY AND SILLY
REACTION, ONE HE EXPERIENCES SHAME
AT HAVING; THERE IS NO TIME FOR
ANGER OR SHAME NOW.

A SOLDIER HAS
ALREADY
COME
THROUGH
THE FRONT
DOOR.

FOLLOW
ME, ZANTI!

ZANTI MIGHT BE
KILLED, IF HE DOESN'T
ACT QUICKLY.

ARE
YOU CRAZY?
I CAN'T DO
THAT.

HE HAS ALREADY
LOST A LITTLE
BOY AND SLADE
TONIGHT, HE
WILL NOT LOSE
ANYMORE.

DO IT NOW,
ZANTI! GET
UP THOSE
SHELVES
ANY WAY
YOU CAN.



EASY FOR
HIM TO
SAY--DO
THIS, DO
THAT!

AND IF YOU
DON'T, THEN
YOU'LL
PROBABLY
END UP
DEAD!



ZANTI WINCES.
NEARLY TORE
HIS ARM, BUT
HE HAS NO
SUPPORT.
SHOULD GO
ALONG NICELY
WITH HIS
WRENCHED
BACK.

I'VE
GOT
YOU!



OH, EVERY
MUSCLE IN
HIS BODY
WILL
COMPLAIN
ABOUT THIS
ABUSE
WHEN HE
WAKES
TOMORROW.



ASSUMING
HE HAS THE
CHANCE TO
SLEEP.



VAN DER MERWE
REMEMBERS
HOW EINER
LOOKED IN THE
HOSPITAL BED,
A BROKEN RIB
BONE LEAVING
A BLOOD-CLOGGED
HOLE IN HIS LUNGS.



PUT IT UP!
WE'RE SUR-
ROUNDING
THE PLACE!

YOU COULDN'T SEE
THE JAGGED EDGE
OF BONE IN GREY
LUNG TISSUE, BUT
YOU COULD HEAR
IT WHEN EINER
BREATHED--

--BREATH
AS SHARP
AS THE
EDGES OF
SPINTERED
RIB CAGE.

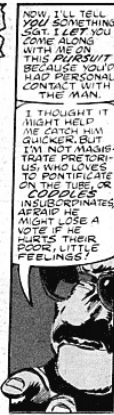
YOU'LL NEVER
GET HIM, NOTHING
FOR HIM TO BE
OFF THAT
ROOF AND
AWAY.

I'VE
SEEN
IT, I
TELL
YOU!



NOW, I'LL TELL
YOU SOMETHING
SGT. I LET YOU
COME ALONG
WITH ME ON
THIS PURSUIT
BECAUSE YOU'D
HAD PERSONAL
CONTACT WITH
THE MAN.

I THOUGHT IT
MIGHT HELP
ME CATCH HIM
QUICKER, BUT
I'M NOT MAGIS-
TRATE PRETORI-
US, WHO LOVES
TO PONTIFICATE
ON THE TUBE, OR
GOBBLES
INSUBORDINATES
AFRAID HE
MIGHT LOSE A
VOTE IF HE
HURTS THEIR
POOR, LITTLE
FEELINGS!



NOW, YOU
LISTEN
CLOSE, SGT.

YOU EVER
DISOBEY
AN ORDER
FROM ME
AGAIN...

I
DIDN'T
HEAR
YOU.

YOU
IGNORED
ME, I DIDN'T
TAKE KINDLY
TO THAT,
SGT, AND
YOU...



...BETTER
KEEP THAT
IN MIND
IN THE
FUTURE!

MYO MASHO WILL
THE TWO TO KEEP ARGUING.
IT'S BEEN A DISASTROUS
NIGHT, BUT MAYBE HE
WILL LUCK OUT AGAIN.

AS SOON AS HE OPENS HIS EYES, ZANTI CHIKANE NODS HIS HEAD
IN CONFIRMATION OF HIS ACHING PREDICTIONS. EVERY JOINT
THROBS AND CREAKS AND CHASTISES HIM.

MAYBE HIS BODY WAS SO STIFF FROM SLEEPING
MOST OF THE DAY IN THE CRAMPED QUARTERS
OF THE SONAR GLIDER. IMAGINE--SLEEPING
DURING THE DAY.

MORE LIKELY
THOUGH, THE
PAINS CAME
FROM LEAPING
OUT OF
TREES--

--AND THROUGH
ROOFTOPS.

THE MAGISTRATE OF
COMMUNICATIONS IN
PRETORIA IS ON THE
MONITORS AGAIN. HE
CAN NEVER REMEMBER
THE MAN'S NAME.
T'CHALLA MUST HAVE
MANY OF THEM
LOSING SLEEP ALSO.

...AND SO, WHILE WE HAVE
NOT CAPTURED THE
BLACK PANTHER--

OOOOHHHHH

--I AM ASSURED OUR
TROOPS ARE CLOSING
IN ON HIM. INEVITABLY
HE WILL BE BROUGHT
IN TO JUSTICE, AND
THE TERRIBLE COST
OF HIS VIOLENCE...

THE
DEATHS
LEFT IN
HIS WAKE
...WHICH
NOW
INCLUDES
A YOUNG
BOY--

-- WILL BE
ACCOUNTED
FOR. THIS IS
ANTON PRETORIUS
BIDDING YOU A
GOOD NIGHT

THEY'RE
BLAMING
EVERY--

AHH!

--THING
ON
YOU!

WE NOW RETURN YOU TO OUR
REGULAR SHOWING OF "HILL
ST. BLUES."

THE COMRADES AND
"FATHERS" AREN'T
EVEN MENTIONED

NOT THAT I
THOUGHT
WE WOULD
HEAR ANY-
THING BUT
WHAT THE
GOVERNMENT
DECIDES
THE PEOPLE
SHOULD
HEAR. DO
YOU THINK
THEY REALLY
BELIEVE
YOU
KILLED
THAT
BOY?

I
DON'T
KNOW.

WHERE ARE YOU
GOING?

I'M GOING TO
TRY TO LOCATE
SARAH SLADE.

IF THEY
RECOGNIZE
YOU...

I'VE
GOT TO TAKE
THE CHANCE.

THAT'S THE
SAME AS RISK.
ISN'T IT?

NOT
ALWAYS.

EXPLAIN
THE DIFFER-
ENCE TO ME
SOMETIME.



SARAH SLADE STARES AT THE DRIED BLOOD ON THE FLOOR.

ALREADY COVERED WITH DUST.

EARLIER, GINNY HAD TRIED TO GET HER TO LEAVE, SAID SHE SHOULDN'T STAY HERE.

GINNY WAS PROBABLY RIGHT.

WHAT GOOD DID IT DO TO WANDER EMPTY ROOMS, STARING AT FAMILIAR THINGS, ITEMS SHE HAD STARED THROUGH FOR MONTHS...

--SCRUTINIZED NOW THAT THEY HAD REACHED A STATE BEYOND BATTERED...

...BROKEN.

MRS. SLADE...

YOU?
HERE?

KNOW YOU RIGHT OFF, MASK OR NO MASK.
BY YOUR STARE.

WAS A MAN HERE, EARLIER TODAY, WHO FIGURED YOU'D RETURN. BUT NOT ME.

THEN AGAIN I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE I DID... WHAT'S THAT WORD... WHEN YOU KNOW SOMETHING--

MAYBE... MAYBE YOU THINK... I DIDN'T LOVE PATRICK. 3 HMPHE IT'S TRUE, HE DIDN'T GIVE A #1%?!! ABOUT FOLKS OTHER THAN HIMSELF.

BUT I'M NOT MUCH DIFFERENT.

AND HE DIDN'T TREAT ME BAD.

YOU KNOW WHAT I REALIZED TODAY... I LIKED HIM.

I USED TO RAZZ HIM ABOUT HIS HIGH-SALUTIN' PLANS. IT WAS LIKE HE SAW THE WORDS "BIG SCORE" LIT UP IN NEON.

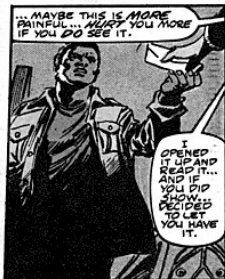
HE THOUGHT WHEN IT CAME IT WAS FATE. YOU GET THE CHANCE AND YOU GRAB IT AND YOU'RE A SUCCESS.

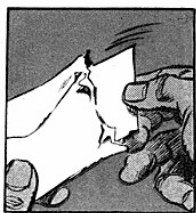
--YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU KNOW.

NEVER MIND. DOESN'T MATTER. I TOLD THE MAN I WOULDN'T BE SEEING YOU.

WHY SHOULD I? YOU ONLY MURDERED MY HUSBAND.

I DID NOT KILL YOUR HUSBAND.





Stop causing all
this trouble.
Go away.
If I had wanted to
see you, don't you think
I would have looked for
you before?
I do not need the burden
of a son who wants to
cling to his mother's
skirts.
Leave now, and let
me get back to my
life. Ramonda



CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...



COLDBLOOD IN: RISE AND SHINE



CHAPTER VII

OPERATING THEATER



AM I NOT
CORRECT,
GINA?

YES, OF COURSE, MAKO...
WE NEED ROOM FOR THE
COMPUTER IMPLANTS.

AND
ALSO...?

WE...
WOULDN'T
WANT HIM
TO...
REMEMBER.

NO, WE
WOULDN'T...
AND YOU MAY
PROCEED WITH
YOUR CYBER-
SURGERY.

CREATE
FOR ME, GINA--
CREATE THE
MASTERPIECE
WE HAVE ALL
DREAMED OF.



I CAN'T BALK
NOW, SAYIN', OR
THEY'LL KILL
ME TOO.



BESIDES,
IT'S MY
FAULT YOU'RE
ON THIS
TABLE...



... IF I HADN'T ASKED
YOU TO INVESTIGATE
MAKO, YOU NEVER
WOULD HAVE DIED.

SO NOW
I'VE GOT TO
GO THROUGH
WITH IT... SINCE
IT'S THE ONLY
WAY...



... TO SALVAGE A
SEMBLANCE OF
YOUR LIFE.



AND, GOD
HELP US, YOU'RE
STILL MY ONLY
HOPE TO STOP THIS
NIGHTMARE.

EXCELLENT,
GINA... YOUR
SKILLS ARE
ASTONISHING.

"DR GINA DYSON'S WHISPERS
WORDS, TO WHICH YOU WERE
DEAF WERE ELECTRONICALLY
STORED IN ME..."

"... EVEN AS SHE
PERFORMED THE
MOST COMPLEX
PROCEDURE IN THE
ANNALS OF SURGERY...
SPLICING ME TO YOUR
UNCONSCIOUS MIND."

*AS WITH ALL PRELIMINARY AND SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES--REINFORCING YOUR SKELETAL STRUCTURE, AMPLIFYING YOUR SENSORY MECHANISMS, ATTACHMENT OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS, AND SO FORTH...



"...IT WAS DONE TO THE PRECISE SPECIFICATIONS OF MANK'S MASTER DESIGNS."



"THE ONLY DEVIATION WAS THE UNPLANNED BUT UNAVOIDABLE DAMAGE TO YOUR FACE."

CIRCUMSTANCES BLESSED US WITH THE PERFECT SUBJECT, GINA, AND YOU WERE BRILLIANT--

--PROVIDED OUR COLD-BLOODED CREATURE WORKS, THAT IS, AND WE'LL SOON KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

ONCE HE'S READY, CHARLES, STRAP HIM IN THAT CAR AND REMOTE-CONTROL IT INTO THE MAZE FOR OUR FIRST TEST.

YOU MEAN THE TANK MANK?

IF HE IS ALL THAT WE HOPE HE IS --



"...WHY NOT THE TANK?"

IS HE IN TIGHT, SCHIRMER?



ROGER, CHARLIE--NO WAY HE'LL FLOP OVER.

THEN BON VOYAGE, YOU POOR FREAK... AND SWEET DREAMS.

YEAH, CHARLIE, BUT WHAT A WAY TO WAKE UP...



"...AT A STRANGE WHEEL, CRUISING FORTY MILES PER."



WHERE AM I?

PRESENT LOCATION: "NEW YORK."



"ONCE AWAKENED, WE WERE A NEW BEING, YOU WITHOUT MEMORY, ME WITH PROGRAMMED LOGS ON MY DATA-STORES."

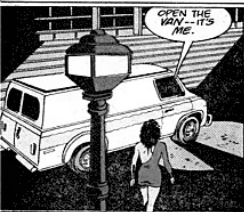
WHO AM I?

YOU ARE GOLDBLOOD-7 AN URBAN SOLDIER CYBORG WITH
NETWARE-GRAFTED COMPUTER,
SYNTHETIC HEMOGLOBIN,
PLASTISTEEL-REINFORCED
SKELETON, CARTRIDGE
357mm AUTOMATIC --

WHO AM I?

YOU ARE NOW THE TARGET OF
AN ELITE PURSUER-9 ASSAULT
TANK CLOSING FAST ON
PRESENT LOCA --

"THIS IS WHERE I CAME IN, COMPUTER. EXCEPT NOW I KNOW WHO I AM-- OR WHO I WAS-- BUT IT'S LIKE KNOWING THE BIOGRAPHY OF A STRANGER... AND FEELING NONE OF IT."



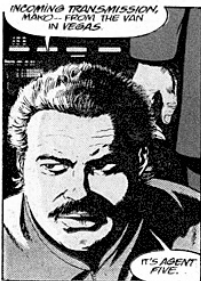
OPEN THE VAN--IT'S ME.



-- STILL
AWAITING
YOUR UPDATE,
SCHIRMER.

YES OR NO--
WAS THE ASSASSIN-
BOT LOCATED
GOLDBLOOD YET?

I -- UH...
SORRY ABOUT
THE DELAY, MARG
BUT I'M, UH,
TRYING TO--



INCOMING TRANSMISSION,
MARGO-- FROM THE VAN
IN VEGAS

IT'S AGENT
FIVE.



HE'S HERE-- I JUST LEFT HIM
IN THE LUCKY 7 MOTEL.

I SEE.

uh oh.

VERY WELL,
FIVE...

STAND BY
WITH OPEN CHANNEL FOR
MY TRANSMISSION.

YOU CALL IT A MERE "DELAY."
SCHIRMER-- NOT REPORTING THE
FAILURE OF THE ASSASSIN-- BUT
UNDER YOUR CONTROL?!

IT, IT'S
NOT VERIFIED,
MAKO...

I ADMIT I'VE LOST
CONTACT WITH THE
UNIT, BUT--

PIOT!!

GOLDBLOOD
IS STILL
FREE!

MAKO--!

YES, CHARLES?
DO YOU OBJECT
TO MY METHODS?

THAT IS
NONE OF YOUR
CONCERN!

WHERE'S
GINA, MAKO?
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE WITH
HER?

YOUR ONLY BUSINESS IS PREPARING FOR
TOMORROW NIGHT'S RECEPTION! REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOST POWERFUL
MEN IN THE WORLD WILL CONVERGE
HERE AND WE MUST--

YOU'RE GOING
THROUGH WITH
IT? WITHOUT
GOLDBLOOD?!

I CAN HANDLE OUR SILENT PARTNERS, CHARLES,
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER... AND BESIDES, BEFORE
THE END OF OUR LITTLE PARTY, I WILL HAVE
GOLDBLOOD.

NOW STAY
OUT OF MY
WAY.

I HAVE TO
TRANSMIT.

Ohhh...



"ERIC SAVIN"..
SEVEN...

THEN YOU MADE ME CHOOSE
THIS MOTEL--EVEN THE ROOM
NUMBER...

THERE WAS
A CERTAIN
IRRESISTIBLE
SUBCONSCIOUS
SUGGESTION
PLANTED IN
YOUR--



YOU'VE GOT
A SICK SENSE
OF HUMOR.

YES; MAKO
ONCE MADE
TOYS.

SMALLER
VERSIONS,
FOR EXAMPLE,
OF US.



TELL ME
COMPUTER--
CAN I EVER
BE RID OF
YOU ?

AFFIRMATIVE,
BUT WHILE I
COULD BE
EASILY SALVAGED
AFTER REMOVAL...
YOU WOULD
DIE.

NOW, COLDBLOOD,
I SUGGEST CALLING
THE CAR.



DID I SEE GINA
DYSON AGAIN... BEFORE
SHE BROUGHT US
BACK TO LIFE ?

AFFIRMATIVE.



ON THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR TRANSFER
TO MAKO'S COMPLEX, YOU EXCHANGED
FURTHER INFORMATION AND
BECAME LOVERS.

CAR EN
ROUTE;
E.T.A.
SEVEN
MIN--

BZZT



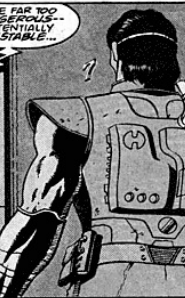
HIYA, DARTH
VADER.

I TOLD YOU--
I DON'T WANT
COMPANY.



NO...

...YOU
TOLD AN
EMPTY
SOULLESS
"WOMAN"...



COME HOME TO FATHER,
COLD BLOOD. TAKE YOUR
PUNISHMENT--JUST A FEW
SIMPLE MODIFICATIONS...
AND GINA WILL LIVE...

WHO KNOWS? AFTER
A LENGTHY STAY IN ONE OF
THE BETTER INSTITUTIONS,
PERHAPS SHE WILL EVEN
EMERGE AS A SLIGHTLY
PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF
SOCIETY.

YOU FILTHY
STINKING...

YOUR ANSWER,
COLD BLOOD?

CHUNK

END OF TRANSMISSION,
CHARLES... AND TIME TO
PREPARE GRAND CENTRAL
STATION FOR OUR
GALA BASH.

AS YOU JUST
WITNESSED... THE
FINAL INVITATION HAS
BEEN ACCEPTED.

HE'S COMING.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

EXCALIBUR WAS SPENDING
A QUIET EVENING AT HOME.

FOR ONCE, ALL WAS
CALM. THE EARTH
WAS NOT BEING
THREATENED.

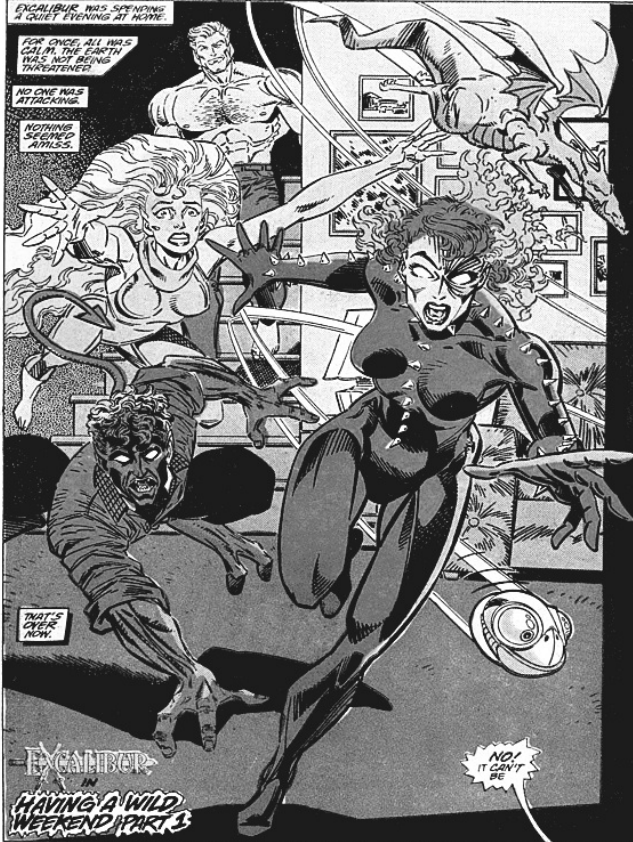
NO ONE WAS
ATTACKING.

NOTHING
SEEMED
AMISS.

THAT'S
OVER
NOW.

EXCALIBUR
IN
HAVING A WILD
WEEKEND PART 3

NO!
IT CAN'T
BE



HA
G
A
W
O
F
W
O
D







WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU GUYS, ANYWAY?

ACTUALLY, WE'RE MORE OUT OF THIS WORLD...

...AND DIDN'T YOU SEE OUR LOGO?

WE'RE THE LOONIES! WE PAID BIG-BUCKS FOR THAT AND WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D PAY ATTENTION!

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THIS SPECTACULAR SETTEE, I'D BE HONORED TO TAKE CARE OF THE INTRODUCTIONS AS WE GO ALONG.

ME, I'M GUNS GUMMY.

THE GUY WITH THE GOGGLES HERE, THE BIG BIRD... AND I DON'T MEAN THE ONE FROM SE SAME STREET... IS CALLED ROOSTER COCKBURN!

"THE DAFFY-LOOKING ONE WITH THE DARK FEATHERS IS BILLY BIRD."

HEY! STAY BACK! I'VE BARELY BEGUN THE INTROS!

I'M WARNING YOU!



YOU'RE STILL CHANGING!

DUB-A-DUB--THE TWO OF US COULD MAKE BEAUTIFUL PIGLETS TOGETHER, MS. PIGGY!

SQUAWK! SQUOINK! OINK!

FIDDLE-FIDDLE! GUESS I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESORT TO THE SUPER SPLITTER SYNDROME! THAT OUGHT TO SLOW HER DOWN!

W-W-WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THE WHOLE THING!



HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THE OLD EXPRESSION, MEIN FREUND-- NEVER SEND A BIRD TO DO A MAN'S WORK!

THEY CERTAINLY WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT BILLY BIRD BUTTER...

...AND THEY WEREN'T COUNTING ON MY RATHER SHARP PLUMAGE!



THE RESULTS ARE INSTANTANEOUS.



"TWO DEMERITS IF YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY MY GUN IS THE HAM!"

OH, MY-- YOU ARE A FR-FR-FR--

-- SCARY ONE!

HOLD STILL, WARMINT!

OH, IS THE LITTLE PIGGY AFRAID OF THE BIG, BAD WOLF?

"WE CALL THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE MUSTACHE AND THE TEN-GALLON HAT, SOUTHWIND."



MY, WHAT BIG TEETH YOU'VE GOT!

UN-A-UN-A-FOR-FOR...

TOO BAD THEY WON'T HELP YOU AT ALL!



MY FORM HAS REVERTED TO NORMAL!

HEY! HOW DO YOU DO THAT?!

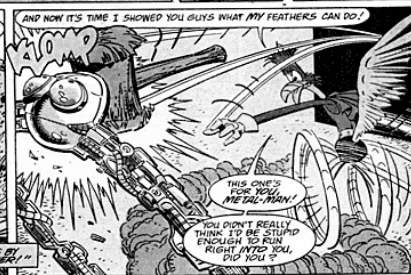
S-S-SUPER-POWERS!

RIGHT NOW YOU'RE STILL IN MID-1. TRANS-TRANS-TRANS--



HEEE...HEEE! YOU MISSED ME!

"OUR LONG-NECKED FRIEND GOES BY THE NOM DE PLUME OF TAIL-GUNNER!"



AND NOW IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU GUYS WHAT MY FEATHERS CAN DO!

THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, METAL-MAN!

YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D BE STUPID ENOUGH TO RUN RIGHT INTO YOU, DID YOU?



HE'S GOT ME CORNERED! IF I DON'T WANT TO BE SLASHED TO BITS, I HAVE NO CHOICE...
...I'VE GOT TO TELEPORT!

HE ALMOST GOT ME THAT TIME!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE DID CONNECT...



YOU CANNOT CONCEIVE OF THE CHALLENGE YOU HAVE UNDERTAKEN!

THE POWER OF THE PHOENIX IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY YOU HAVE EVER IMAGINED!

YOU DON'T SAY.



HA! HA! HA!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE POWER OF THE ROOSTER AROUSED?

MY MIND!



THE PAIN--

--UNBEARABLE!

IF ONLY YOUR PSIONIC POWERS DIDN'T LEAVE YOU SO PRANG SUSCEPTIBLE TO MY MENTAL COMMANDS!



MAMMELL

DON'T EVEN TRY TO SPEAK, HERO! NONE OF YOUR MUSCLES WILL RESPOND TO YOUR COMMANDS!

AND I USED MY POWER TO SLOW THIS ONE DOWN UNTIL SHE FINALLY C-COL-COLLAR COL--



--DROPPED!

DON'T YA THINK THIS ONE MAKES A PRETTY STATUE?





... BUT I'M NOT WILLING TO TAKE THE CHANCE...

... SO I'LL JUST PHASE UP BEHIND HIM!



PEEK-A-DOO! WHAT'S THE MATTER... KITTY GOT YOUR GUN?

GUESS IT WON'T BE MUCH USE TO YOU NOW!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, HONEY-CHILE!



THIS 'STACHE GUN JUST FOR SHOW!



NO! NO! IT IS THE ONE THING I FEEL THE MOST!



THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

I WILL NOT BE ENSLAVED AGAIN!

I MUST BE FREE!



I MUST BE FREE!



CAN'T OVERUSE MY POWER!

HADN'T RESTED!

I'M DREED-- CAN'T GET MY BEARINGS...



ARRGH!

SO NICE TO SLASH YOU AGAIN!

I'M THROUGH TOYING AROUND WITH YOU!

LET'S SEE IF YOU GUYS ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE!



CRASH!

CRASH!

I GUESS NOT!



HE WON'T LOOK GOOD NO MATTER WHAT WE DO!

MAYBE WE'LL BE LUCKY AND HE'LL BLEED TO DEATH!

THE BOSS WANTS 'EM ALL ALIVE!



I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THESE THINGS WERE ALIVE TO BEGIN WITH! HERE-HERE!



WE'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL WITH HER!

SHE WAS DEFEATED BY A HACKER CREATED BY HER OWN MIND-- WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM YOURS TRULY, OF COURSE!

MARVEL PRESENTS

Dear Terry,

Well, you wanted comments, you've got them! MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #23 was generally interesting reading, offering something for every reader.

The Cyclops series is really shaping up. Bob Harras continues to excel at telling quality stories in a serial format. Each chapter is well-told and contains enough action and suspense to move the plot forward. And, with Ron Lim's shining pencils the characters have never looked better.

"Panther's Quest" proves that there are no poor characters, only poor storytellers. Don McGregor and Gene Colan have revived interest in the Black Panther with one of the most interesting storylines in comics today. Am I to assume that this will be collected in a trade paperback when it's all done?

I didn't have much interest in the Falcon story before reading it, but I plowed forward and came up with a real surprise... I liked it! While a little heavy-handed with the drug theme, Fabian Nicieza has proved himself a very able writer.

I'm sorry to say that the clunker of the bunch was the "Wheels" story. I felt that this "love" story was silly and unbelievable. It seemed out of place alongside the more complex themes of "Panther's Quest."

All in all, this package was well worth the \$1.25 price tag. That's what I appreciate about this title—the diversity of tales. Speaking of which, is there any chance we could see a real old-fashioned Western in these pages any time soon?

Mark Lucas
66 Cleary Ct. #902
San Francisco, CA 94109

Actually, we don't have any plans for a Western right now, Mark, but as we always say, we aim to please. So if the demand is there, we'll definitely print a genuine Western some time in the future. Also, you are quite right in your assumption that the "Panther's Quest" saga will be reprinted in the future in a high-quality trade paperback format. Look for it at your local comic shop sometime down the line!

Dear Marvel,

I've just finished reading issue #23 of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, and I enjoyed the stories. They all have excellent plots.

The Cyclops story was great, and it was obvious that it was leading up to a hopefully spectacular ending.

I have to say that I think the Black Panther story was kind of slow and dull. It could have had more action in it, but the poor guy is bleeding to death. Its beginning to look like he's going to leave a trail of his own blood all over South Africa before this storyline ends. In fact, I'm surprised that he hasn't dropped dead yet.

The Falcon story was interesting. All I can say is that we need more stories in comic books like the one you just told. Has anyone at Marvel thought about doing a real life story about drugs and the effect they have on people?

The love story with Wheels of Wolfpack was quite enjoyable. I like a love story done in the traditional Marvel way.

See you in two weeks!!

Ed Goldberg
1655 Juliet Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952

We're glad you liked most of the book, Ed... boy, you're hard to please sometimes, though. What do we have to do to the Black Panther to make it exciting enough for you? Put him in a love story with Shamrock? Or the new Captain Marvel? Uh-oh, we'd better stop before we give writer, Scott Lobdell, any more ideas for new stories...

Dear Terry,

I just read MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #23 and I'm going to review the stories as did Charles S. Novinskie in this issue's letters page, so without any further ado:

Cyclops: I must say that I have enjoyed this saga greatly. Ron's pencils bring out just the right amount of luster, much like they do in SILVER SURFER. And, although I've never previously been familiar with the writing of Bob Harras, I really enjoy it now. My compliments to Jeff Albert for a great linking job, too. Maybe we'll see more of Conscience!

Black Panther: I've read many back issues of JUNGLE ACTION, and boy, do I get a nostalgic feeling while reading this. The creative team is pure genius. My hat goes off to Don, Gene, and Tom.

Falcon: I'm a big fan of Fabian Nicieza's writing, and Dave Cockrum's artwork, but I found this story to be a bit of a let-down. I must say that I'm getting tired of stories about drugs. To tell you the truth, I think Marvel is OD'ing on drug stories.

Wheels: No comment...

One more thing, I'm tired of one-parters! Get rid of them. 'Nuff said?

Ron Erickson
7820 Lakecrest Dr.
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Sorry, Ron, but even though we value your opinion, we're gonna stick with our one-shot stories for a while. We still think they're a good way to showcase lesser known characters. At least you liked half of the stories in the issue. We must say that a .500 average isn't too shabby...

Dear Marvel,

I just finished reading MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #23, and it was great! I like the Cyclops story, and I can't wait to see how it ends. I also like how the Black Panther story is going.

I have some requests for the future, though. First, could you please put Frankenstein's Monster in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS? I'd also like to see Angel, the USAgent, Speedball, Black Knight, Galactus, Quicksilver, and Eternity. Also, I heard that a new TOMB OF DRACULA series is coming out soon. Is this true?

Keep up the good work!

Daniel Brown
(Address withheld by request)

You heard right, Daniel, but we can't give you any details on that book right now (hey, we have enough trouble keeping track of what's in this book, let alone others). As for your requests on what you want to see here: Speedball and Black Knight will definitely be around soon. Quicksilver, USAgent, and Angel generate a lot of interest so you'll surely see something about all of those guys in the near future, too. As for Galactus and Eternity though, we're not too sure of those right at this moment. But in the future, who knows? Stranger things have happened...

Terry:

It's just two weeks shy of your first anniversary, and if I read it clearly, that issue of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS should feature the turnover of the "top" spot. Namely, Havok; am I right?

I would have objected strongly to this concept roughly three or four months ago on the basis that Scott Summers' little brother is focused on too much for such a boring character. But now, with the changes brought about during "Inferno," my interest in Havok has sparked. I sincerely hope Howard Mackie (the previewed scribe) will deal with these changes.

Another character whom I believe deserves a multi-part saga is the Human Torch. He, too, has recently undergone dramatic changes in the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR. And he has finally begun to interest me after my limited exposure to a character whom I believed had no character.

Chris Hines
RR 1 Debert
Nova Scotia B0M 1G0
CANADA

We hope you like what Howard has done with Havok, Chris—we sure do! Also, the Human Torch will be spotlighted, along with the other members of the F.F. some time in the near future. We'll give more details soon!

Dear Marvel Scribes,

When I walk into my local comics shop every other week, I love to see MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS waiting patiently for me at the front of the rack.

When I return home, I'm anxious to open the book and see how the Black Panther is faring.

Then, after digesting his latest adventure, I'll say to myself "When will I see the Black Panther in his own book again?" Do you happen to know the answer to this? Well, I hope to see it soon!

Jonny
12251 S. Wentworth
Chicago, IL 60628

We hope to see it soon too, Jonny, and we're working on it. And early next year, you can look for a new prestige format BLACK PANTHER Limited Series that will affect the Panther's life in a major, major way!

BLACK PANTHER

BY HIS
OWN BLOOD BETRAYED!

COLDBLOOD
THE ORIGIN CONTINUES

BOGDANOV
BRASIA ST
CITY CENTER

